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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD - HOUSE
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A CALL FOR INVESTIGATION OF
CONGRESSIONAL LEAKS

HON. JACK F. KEMP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1976

Mr. KEMP. Mr. Speaker, the Congress has complained that it does not get enough briefing from the administration and that it is kept in the dark about foreign policy and the activities and budget of the CIA. But if Congress is provided with sensitive information in confidence and that information is then leaked to the press, security precautions result in the administration withholding sensitive information from the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, an editorial in the Dallas Morning News makes this point in regard to the recent leak, centered on information recently given to some Members of Congress in confidence, that the CIA has provided financial support to non-Communist political parties in Italy. I quote from the editorial:

Congress has said it wants to be kept in the picture on all foreign policy operations of the government. We believe that it should be, indeed must be, kept informed, if the legislative is to regain its proper constitutional status as an equal partner in national leadership.

But so long as chief executives expect that every bit of sensitive or confidential information provided Congress will shortly thereafter be published around the world, that's not likely. What is likely is that presidents, Democratic or Republican, will return to the former policy of keeping Congress as much in the dark as possible.

You may not think that is a healthy policy—we do not—but considering the record, it is easy to see why it was adopted.

Mr. Speaker, in order to protect Congress access to information, I call for a congressional investigation of this leak and a congressional censure of the guilty party.